



PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

Central Michigan District Health Department
“Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities”

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To: Local News Media

From: Central Michigan District Health Department

RE: National Accreditation Status

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Central Michigan District Health Department becomes Nationally Accredited!

Central Michigan District Health Department is the first of local health departments in Michigan to become nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board.

Central Michigan District Health Department staff were rewarded this week for achieving a goal they set for themselves two years ago – to become a nationally accredited local health department. Under the leadership of Mary Kushion, Health Officer for Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) and PHAB Accreditation Coordinator Allison Dunn, the CMDHD staff worked to complete the requirements. Of the 2,800 local health departments in the country, the national designation has only been awarded to 17 local health departments in the country and to only two state departments (Oklahoma and Washington State). The national Public Health Accreditation Board awarded the status to CMDHD on August 20, 2013. The process includes an extensive documentation review and on-site review by a national review team.

Public health departments play a critical role in protecting and improving the health of people and communities. In cities, towns, and states across the nation, health departments provide a range of services aimed at promoting healthy behaviors; preventing diseases and injuries; ensuring access to safe food, water, clean air, and life-saving immunizations; and preparing for and responding to public health emergencies.

“Central Michigan District Health Department is one of the first of many health departments that we look forward to being able to recognize as a high-performing public health department,” said PHAB President and CEO Kaye Bender, PhD, RN, FAAN. “The peer-review process provides valuable feedback to inform health departments of their strengths and areas for

improvement, so that they can better protect and promote the health of the people they serve in their communities.”

The national accreditation program was created collaboratively over a 10-year period by hundreds of public health practitioners working at the national, Tribal, state, and local levels. Since the program’s launch in September 2011, nearly 130 health departments have applied to PHAB for accreditation, and hundreds of public health practitioners from across the nation have been trained to serve as volunteer peer site visitors for the program.

“Achieving accreditation indicates that Central Michigan District Health Department is dedicated to improving and protecting the health of the community by striving to continuously improve the quality of the services it delivers,” said PHAB Board of Directors Chair Carol Moehrle, MD. “Accreditation also promotes consistency in meeting standards. With an ever-increasing number of health departments now applying for and becoming accredited, you will be able to expect to receive the same quality of public health services wherever you go in the United States.”

Central Michigan District Health Department joins 18 other health departments throughout the United States with this accreditation and will serve as a resource to other local health departments who are seeking this same designation. Currently, National Accreditation is a voluntary process, but CMDHD knew it would want to apply to be able to both showcase its strengths and learn where improvements could be made. Both Mary Kushion and Allison Dunn have been invited to speak throughout Michigan and at the National level about their “best practices” and “lessons learned”.

“Achieving PHAB accreditation is a true testament to the expertise and knowledge of our staff, the strength of our community partnerships and the support of our board of health.” stated Ms. Kushion. “The experience has validated what we have always known – that we are a leader in local public health – both here in Michigan and now in the nation”.

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon. Visit our website at www.cmdhd.org and LIKE Central Michigan District Health Department on Facebook.

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¹Source: Public Health Accreditation Board (www.phaboard.org).